



**Price of a barrel of petroleum**  
**US\$ 72.49**  
↑ 1.06

## U.S. NEWS

### BORDER CONTROL



Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano addresses those in attendance at the 6th Annual Border Security Conference held in El Paso, Texas on the campus of the University of Texas at El Paso.

See International News on Page 4

## SPORTS NEWS

### SERGING BACK



Sergio Garcia of Spain waves after sinking a putt on the seventh hole during the first round of The Barclays golf tournament, Thursday, Aug. 27, 2009, at Liberty National Golf Club in Jersey City, N.J.

See Sports Today on Page 10

# USS Doyle Crew to Participate in Community Relations Project

ORANJESTAD - The USS DOYLE (FFG-39) will arrive in Curacao for a port visit on 28 August, 2009. The ship is participating in the Southern Seas Deployment 2009, an annual naval deployment to South America, Central America, and the Caribbean that provides opportunities for participating nations to train and learn from each other. The ship is part of Task Group 40.0.

While in Curacao, the USS DOYLE crew will be conducting professional exchanges with sailors from the Royal Dutch Navy. In addition, USS DOYLE sailors will participate in community relations projects.

"Theater Security Cooperation visits like these are very important to these sailors and the U.S. Navy as a whole" said Captain Rodelio Laco, Commander of Task Group 40.0.

The U.S. and Dutch Navies have a strong working relationship, often participating in bilateral and multilateral exercises that provide



humanitarian assistance throughout the region.

USS DOYLE is home ported in Mayport, Florida and is commanded by Commander John Zuzich. The ship was commissioned in 1983 and has a crew of approximately 190 officers and enlisted personnel. For more information on USS DOYLE, please visit their webpage at: <http://www.doyle.navy.mil/>

*Sanctum Grooves presents Dimesions*

# Hard Rock Café Aruba to go off tonight!

PALM BEACH - Sanctum Grooves presents Dimesions, a Sanctum Grooves yearly label party featuring artist from this new EDM (Electronic & Dance Music) Label. Prepare to be indulging tonight at Hard Rock Café Aruba by the sounds of...

Interplay (Amsterdam, Netherlands) stands for a wide variety of music, from disco and pop influenced funky house sounds to nowadays' electroinspired driving progressive beats.

In a short period of time Interplay (also known as one half of Fine Taste) has performed as a dj at parties all over the world, across the American, European and Asian continents; Queen Club Paris, Panama Amsterdam and Ministry Of Sound London are just some of the top European venues where Interplay has performed.

Interplay and Fine Taste original tracks and remixes have been released on a large number of now-a-day's top house music record labels, including Stealth, Little Mountain, Alternative Route, Anjunadeep, Global Underground, Armada and Baroque, just to name a few.

Many of the worlds top DJs have already picked up Interplay's fresh sounds, and it's a sure bet this guy will continue to surprise clubbers around the world with innovative new music as we head for 2010.

Jesse Perez

Along with friend and label partner Ariel G they form the Miami-based Duo called 2Xclusive, a project that has released productions in labels such as Discoteca Music, Behold Recordings, just to name a few...

Continued on page 4



CHOCOLATE, CARAMEL AND COOKIE  
**THE TWIX MIX**  
IN THE NEW McFLURRY





*At South Beach Centre*

# The House of Japan is ready to receive guests

PALM BEACH – The House of Japan is marking its soft opening this week by offering guests a fresh and exciting dining experience.

Owner Kaanan Baroud contracted architect Greg Lacle of ABJL & Partners to create the restaurant interior. True to the principles of Feng Shui and traditional Japanese space arrangement, Lacle set out to create a gem of a dining room, where a distinctive red color interplays with a palette of white, gray and black to present authentic Japanese ambiance with a modern touch.

“Martial arts and the effect of flowing movement influenced the curvy and linear look of the bar, with its shiny, high-resistance Site stone countertop and the staccato-lined wall underneath”, explains Lacle, “everything, down to the restaurant logo created by a Japanese artist now living in the US, is faithful to the land of the rising sun,” he adds.

The same curvy and linear architectural elements are echoed in the ceiling, the wall elements featuring beautiful, wooden, custom-made cabinetry, and the inviting Teppanyaki table seating. The restaurant’s striking inlaid floor made of high quality



tile is designed to resemble Japanese wood panels. The frosty, opaque glass surfaces on shelves reflect the translucency of rice paper, infused by indirect

LED lighting, which is soft and sweet, and lends the dining room an intimate, hushed quality.

To complement the harmonious interiors, Kaanan Baroud



imported some high-powered sushi chefs mixing traditional Japanese cuisine with a fusion of Latin and Caribbean influences. “We feature some non-traditional foods,” explains Baroud, “such as sun dried tomatoes, imported mussels, cream cheese, passion fruit, fresh mango, ripe avocado, mustard and honey sauces beside Japanese ingredients to create Fusion Cuisine. So you have to come to the House of Japan to see what happens when East meets West in the kitchen,” he concludes, “your taste buds will be happy!!”

The lovely House of Japan menu

features aromatic soups, creative salads & starters, grilled Kushi Ague/Yaki skewers, Sushi Rolls, innovative specialties and mixed platters of Sushi, Nigiri and Sashimi, hot dishes with noodles or rice, and combination platters, matched irresistibly with the delicious tempura temptations.

Best of all, patrons may sit inside in the air conditioned dining room or outside with comfortable terrace seating areas. Bar-food lovers may order their favorite dishes while at the South Beach Lounge, it will be delivered with courtesy and efficiency, signature service standards at the House of

## royal romance



Massage & Dinner combo **\$275** per couple



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Package includes:

**a 50 minute Couple’s Massage\***  
at Okeanos Spa

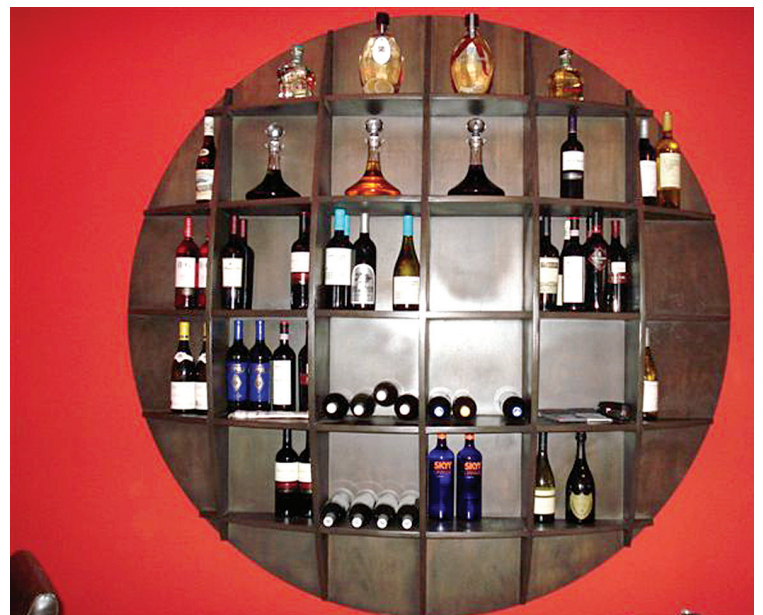
**Special Dinner Menu for Two\***  
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**Welcome Drink “Kir Royale”**

L.G. SMITH’S

STEAK & CHOP HOUSE

\*Massage available from 4 pm, dinner available from 5:30 pm. For more information call 523-6176





# Website launched for exclusive real estate projects



ORANJESTAD – A news website was just recently launched outlining three exciting and exclusive real estate projects. L.G. Smith 456 Villas, developed

by Tramontana Real Estate Development N.V. which is a division of Veenhuysen Holding N.V., conceived luxury villas on L.G. Smith Boulevard, with

views of the ocean in front and the salina in the back, designed by a young Aruban architect, who is making a name for himself abroad as well as here on the island with

his unique, contemporary yet traditionally-Mediterranean style villas.

Brisas del Mar Villas, developed by Savaneta Real Estate N.V. which is a division of Veenhuysen Holding N.V., conceived an elegant plan for the famed Brisas del Mar location, where the breathtaking view of the ocean

are the backdrops for gorgeous, luxury homes, also designed by a young Aruban architect, offering European-style, seaside living.

Vie le Dome on The Eagle Beach, is currently being planned as a cluster of 16 very luxurious apartments, on the site of the former Le Dome restaurant, aptly named Vie le Dome.

## Loyal guests honored at La Cabana Racquet Club Resort

ORANJESTAD - Recently at La Cabana Resort vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of Goodwill title. The recent honorings were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority Associate Ricardo Croes at La Cabana Resort they call their home away from home. Ana Lucia Delmastro & Eduardo Balada were honored as Distinguished Visitors after visiting Aruba for 11 years.

On picture Mr. Ricardo Croes together with Ana Lucia Delmastrona y Eduardo Balada and also Mrs. Charles from La Cabana Racquet Club Resort



### Appetizer

- Fish Soup
- Onion Soup
- Conch Fritters
- Escargot
- Salad

### Entrée

- Fresh Catch of the Day prepared by our local chef just the way you like it.
- Jumbo Shrimp from our local waters, breaded served with potato or rice or with garlic tossed over linguine.
- Filet Mignon 8 oz. US Tenderloin
- Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast

### Dessert

- Chocolate or Banana Cake
- Ice Cream
- Coffee / Tea

\* This special cannot be used with any other promotions, vouchers or certificates.

3-course dinner  
**\$24** per person



Open daily 5:00 pm - 10:30 pm  
(Closed on Tuesdays)  
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Continued from front page

Determined on becoming one of Electronic Dance Music's most influential and respected artists, Jesse Perez's distinctive style of Djing and production work has landed him gigs all across the US and Europe.

Jesse's production was recently featured on several MTV reality shows and since 2005 his productions have been consistently topping many Electronic Dance Music Charts. Now more than ever his music is reaching thousands of anticipated fans through his monthly mixes on Proton Radio (considered to be the best electronic internet station) and through his Behold FM Radio show in Miami. Evidently Jesse is well on his way to becoming a shining star in this exciting and evolving world of electronic music.

Ariel G

Ariel G (one half of 2Xclusive) after moving from New York to Miami in his teenage years he came to discovered what was known to be back then the Underground Electronic Music called "Trance." As an adolescent, balancing his studies, weekend Dj gigs, hosting a Dance program on the University Radio Station, and working part time for Miami's best Vinyl Shops. It was here that he first learned about music business specifically in the underground electronic market. It was here that he learned about Winter Music Conference and made his presence known to the industry sharing the decks once a year with the biggest of DJ names he admired on a one-to-one basis.





*At The Westin Resort, Aruba*

# Associates that go the extra mile acknowledged

PALM BEACH - This past Wednesday afternoon, all associates and management of The Westin Resort, Aruba were invited to attend a special luncheon in honor of the nominees for Brand Champion of the Month for July. The Brand Champion of the Month nominees were tapped by management for exemplifying Westin's core values including providing personal touches and personalized services to 'surprise and delight' every guest, proactively anticipating guests' needs and making them feel special, and recognizing the special touches offered by Westin to help guests restore the body, expand the mind, and elevate the spirit so they leave not only rested, but also renewed and enriched. The nominated associates are recognized for inspiring their co-workers and making the extra efforts to improve their departments and go above and beyond expectations. During a beautiful lunch buffet spread produced by the Westin's culinary and banquet teams, the following winners were announced: Heart of the House was David Chacin from Engineering-known as the "quiet one," whose cooperative attitude and can-do demeanor are an inspiration to everyone in his department; Front of the House was Xavier Erasmus from Beverage-whose dedication, responsibility, and willingness to come in early and work late made him a standout among his peers. Pabien to the winners and the nominees!





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- **Sundown Special**, receive 10% off your meal when seated by 6 p.m.

\*Kids Eat Free \*Kids under age 12, one per paying adult

**Monday** Seafood Sampler

**Tuesday** Bravo Italiano

**Wednesday** An island favorite - BBQ night

**Thursday** Chateaubriand, Oo-la-la

**Friday** International Seafood Festival

**Saturday** Simply Perfect - Prime Rib

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## Loyal Guest honored at Marriott Surf Club Resort

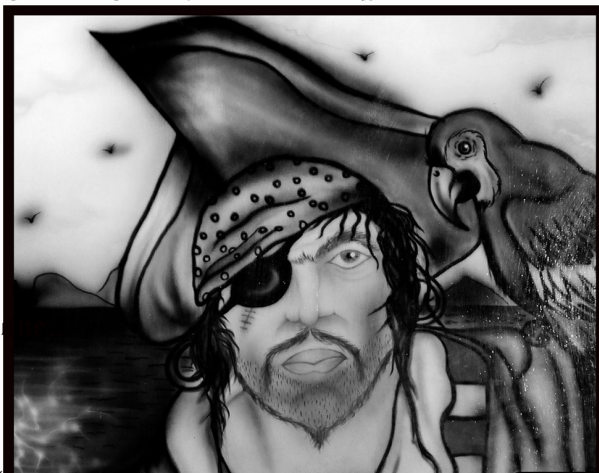


## Buccaneer Restaurant

Aruba's Legendary Buccaneer Restaurant, serving the freshest fish and seafood from the sea to your to your plate including steaks, duck, poultry and pasta dishes.

Whether you come with the whole family, bring a group of friends, or enjoy for a romantic dinner for two, Buccaneer has the high quality service and fresh, flavorful international dishes that will make your dining experience a memorable reservations email us at [info@buccaneeraruba.com](mailto:info@buccaneeraruba.com) or call 586-6172

Monday - Saturday 5:30-10 pm



Ahoy Matey bring this ad in for a free glass of house wine



PALM BEACH - Recently at the Marriott Surf Club vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of goodwill title. The recent honorings were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority Associate Ricardo Croes at Marriott Surf Club Resort they call their home away from home. Jeannette & Walter Herrmann were honored as an Ambassador of goodwill after visiting Aruba for 30 years and also Lou & Joy Ferola and Edward & Betty Jane Heinz were honored as Distinguished Visitors for the Island of Aruba.

Pictured: Mr. Ricardo Croes together with all honorees and also staff at the Marriott Surf Club Resort



# Shivas Gold & Gems is the official agent for Panerai Laboratorio Di Idee watches



ORANJESTAD – Responding to the enormous demand for oversize, striking collectors' watches, Shivas Gold & Gems just became the exclusive agent for Panerai Laboratorio Di Idee watches. The line founded by Giovanni Panerai (1825-1897) started in a family business,

and was available at the first watchmaker's shop in Florence on the Ponte alle Grazie. To further develop his brand, the Italian watch designer established contact with the most prestigious and longest-established Swiss watch manufacturers. Giovanni was succeeded by his son, Leon

Francesco, also an innovative designer who continued in his father's footsteps to engineer and produce exclusive timepieces at the Panerai Manufacture. The catalogue of Panerai boasts a family of watches which exclusively uses 100% made-in-Panerai movements. The



collections always respect the Panerai standards which manifest robustness, high technical quality and a unique, distinctive aesthetic impact. As a brand, Panerai is also known world over by its collection of watches engineered for Ferrari, and the appearance of the Ferrari watches is strongly influenced by the aesthetic lines of the cars, in a continuous cross-reference between the watch and the details of the engine and bodywork. Ferrari boats a total of two collections: Granturismo and Scuderia. Through the ages, Panerai has also been strongly associated with the Italian Navy,



the Marina Militare Italiana, various world class sailing regattas, and the Panerai Classic Yachts Challenge, for which it designs special limited edition watches. Visit Shivas at Royal Plaza, Oranjestad, and soon at the Palm Beach Plaza on Palm Beach.



## THE COOLEST PLACE TO BE IS BUGALOE! Fun and happiness at popular beach bar

**PALM BEACH - There is only one Bugaloe on Aruba: it is the hottest place to be cool and the coolest place to be hot.**

Friends and fun are the main ingredients at the beach bar, but great food, drinks and music get a good second place. The sunsets, the breeze and the turquoise ocean are right at the top as well, of course.

People from all over the world get together at Bugaloe: they have a few drinks, a bite to eat, they dance and sway and make new friends. If you have gotten curious here and now, check out the website [www.bugaloe.com](http://www.bugaloe.com) and you will see at one glance what we are talking about. No words will be needed anymore. Surf to the website for the Bugaloe Event Calendar or leave a note in the Guestbook.



### MENU ITEMS

Burgers, Pizzas, Salads  
Sandwiches, Wraps  
Wings & Calamari

### HAPPY HOUR

Every day from:  
5 - 6 pm

### OPENING HOURS

Daily 9 am - 12 am

### WEBSITE

[WWW.BUGALOE.COM](http://WWW.BUGALOE.COM)



**Bugaloe is located at De Palm Pier in Palm Beach between RIU Palace and Radisson Resort.**

Bugaloe's daily Happy Hours are considered the starting signal for an evening of partying on the island. Locals mingle with visitors and raise their glasses. When you get hungry, order a scrumptious burger, a gourmet pizza, tasty wings or a salad and party on.

The night is young, the world is going crazy and you are right in the middle of a super happening. What's not to like?

Bugaloe Beach Bar puts on live bands on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

Joyride, PM Band, DJ Jeroen and Marisela & Aquarius are playing the stars from the sky. These musical talents draw the crowds, so be there or be square!

For more information go to [www.bugaloe.com](http://www.bugaloe.com).

### LIVE MUSIC @ BUGALOE

Tuesday 6-9pm: JOYRIDE

Wednesday 6-10pm: PM Band

Friday 6-10pm: PM Band

Friday 10pm - 12am - DJ Jeroen

Sunday 6-9pm: MARISELA & Aquarius

J. E. Irausquin Blvd 79 at De Palm Pier • Tel: (297) 5862233 • Website: [www.bugaloe.com](http://www.bugaloe.com) • Email: [info@bugaloe.com](mailto:info@bugaloe.com)



# Gala Opening of the New CEI in Curacao

Rif Fort Willemstad – The gorgeous new Colombian Emeralds International store was officially opened this weekend at the historical world heritage Rif Fort, in Curacao. Managing Directors Serge and Dalila Mansur took great pleasure in inviting a large number of glitterati from Aruba & Curacao to the Grand Opening over elegant cocktail and hors d'oeuvres. “Colombian Emeralds International is pleased to join with Serge & Dalila Mansur for the opening of this store which is a wonderful opportunity for the prestigious brand,” commented CEI’s President and CEO Stephen Crane, as he addressed a crowd of invitees gathered at the plaza in front of the sparkly store windows, just moments before the ribbon cutting ceremony affected by guest of honor Emily de Jong-Elhage, Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles, and family Matriarch Ola Mansur. Rif Fort, built in 1828, was recently developed in conjunction with the new Renaissance Curacao Resort & Casino, introducing an upscale array of shops and boutiques to the legendary historical attraction. “When the President & CEO of CEI approached us for a partnership,” reports Serge Mansur, “we agreed to come on board and help further enhance the luxury retail shopping experience at the reborn Rif Fort landmark.” As the store opened its doors in late April, it immediately attracted island visitors and locals. “People associate Colombian Emeralds International with celebration,” says Dalila Mansur, “and thus they don’t just come to us to make a purchase, they come to CEI for a



memorable experience and make an important connection with the store, creating meaningful life-memories.” The CEI store in the Renaissance Curacao Resort & Casino is bursting with gorgeous colored gems, diamonds, gold and white gold jewelry. The Amoro line, the world’s most romantic jewelry collection features Sugar & Spice, Petals, Sun & Sea, Caribbean Calypso and Stardust as well as its dazzling Quattour diamond line, distinctive fine jewelry guaranteed to give joy today and the pleasure of fine quality forever. The store is the official agent for Oris, Swiss made watches since 1904, Rado Switzerland, Citizen, the much-loved Raymond Weil Geneve and the exclusive, Mediterranean inspired Bertolucci watches. CEI is the only store in Curacao to carry the refined and rare Cuervo y Sobrinos Watches, a line of time-pieces which traces its roots to Havana, Cuba in 1882. With more than forty years experience and with more than sixty store locations throughout the Caribbean, CEI Curacao is more than just a shop, it is an attraction, a great representative of the island’s thriving tourist product, and in the words of Emily de Jong-Elhage, the proof of excellent neighborly relationships between the island of Aruba and the island of Curacao. Pictured here exceptional party moment, catered by the Renaissance Curacao Resort & Casino, and produced by radio personality Ruvette Dirks, Grate Group NV, Curacao.





*Golden Anniversary surprise celebration*

# Judy & Mel Starr vow their love after 50 years of marriage



OCCIDENTAL- Yesterday Judy & Mel Starr had the surprise of their life when they reached the beach area to find their family united under a palapa. The surprise was a shock to Judy & Mel who thought they were going for a walk before dinner. Once arriving at the palapa they seen Rabbi Guervitz who welcomed the honored guests and both had tear of joy as they realized the union was for them. Their golden anniversary was held on the beach of Occidental Grand Resort. The ceremony held all the Jewish traditions and ended with Mel stomping on the glass, "Mazel Tov!"

Their 50th anniversary was united with their three children and their spouses (Helaine and Jonathan, Barry and Lisa and youngest son Larry) as well as their two grandchildren Talia, 15, and Isaac, 13.

Judy & Mel met at a friend's engagement party in Boston and since that day they have been



together. They only knew each other for four months and were married on September 5, 1959.

Arguello of Occidental Resort and Helaine planned this golden anniversary 2 months ago and everything yesterday was perfect including a gorgeous sunset. Following the photo shoot with Bella Aruba Photography the families enjoyed a dinner reception at L'Olio Italian Restaurant.

**Photos by Angela Munzenhofer**

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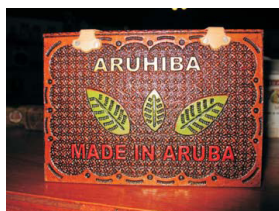
ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba.



Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba".



Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open on Sunday from 9am to 8pm. And also at Tamarijn Hotel open from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are handmade.



**BUY & RECEIVE ONE ARUBAN CIGAR FREE WITH THIS FLYER**



# Elections awkward for island of St. Maarten

PHILIPSBURG--Holding parliamentary elections in January amidst the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles will put the constitutional process in a very awkward place, because the focus is on building up new countries St. Maarten and Curaçao, says Leader of Government and Constitutional Affairs Commissioner William Marlin.

News about Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage's announcement of the Central Government's decision to follow the Advisory Council of the Netherlands Antilles' advice to hold elections rather than postpone them was received Wednesday afternoon while Marlin was holding a press conference on this and other matters. Marlin said there was no way to circumvent the legal opinion against postponing the elections. The council's opinion was sought on the draft law amendment to postpone the elections to allow for the completion

of the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles and the building up of the new countries.

The advice is not binding and the Central Government did not have to follow it. But the prime minister pointed out in her statement that the Council of Ministers had decided from the very beginning to take the advice whichever way it came.

"If your legal advisors or highest advisory council of the Netherlands Antilles tells you it is not right [or] it is not the best thing to do, politically one can take the decision and say I don't care, but that is not how we should operate in a democracy," the commissioner said.

He added that the elections, although necessary for legal and democratic purposes, would be for an "empty house," because most if not all responsibilities of the Central Government would become those of the new countries as of January.

The very awkward situation in which the holding of

elections puts the islands is that, right after the new Central Government and Parliament begin their terms on March 26, nominations for the elections for the first Parliaments of countries St. Maarten and Curaçao will have to begin, Marlin told the press.

It was decided tentatively in the June Political Steering Group meeting that the new countries would be established no later than October 2010. For this time period to be realistic, Parliaments' preparations need to start at least by April, he said. "How it will all work out, we'll have to see."

National Alliance (NA) will have to decide how it will approach the Parliamentary elections. The party holds two of the three seats allotted to St. Maarten. They are filled by George Pantophlet and Rodolphe Samuel, who are also Island Councilmen. The third St. Maarten seat is held by the Democratic Party (DP). That party's Deputy Leader Erno Labega serves as Parliamentarian. DP leader Sarah Wescot-Williams said after the prime minister's announcement that her party would participate in the upcoming elections (see related story).

However, Marlin said

participation in the elections would be a topic on the agenda for the NA's retreat on Saturday. "It is difficult to ignore an election if a decision is taken that there must be one."

Parties in St. Maarten would have to decide collectively not to participate and this also would have consequences, he said. The point is: to what extent political parties will participate in the elections, whether they are Central Government coalition partners or not, he said. "If government wants to operate within the confines of the law, it is up to the party to participate or not."

## Sumptuous Sundowner

Introducing a special early evening menu, served from 5:30pm till 7pm

### - Appetizer -

Cream of Assorted Vegetables  
or  
Caesar Salad  
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Fried Calamari with Marinara Sauce

### - Entrée -

Surf and Turf - Garlic Shrimp (4)  
with Petit Filet  
or  
Grilled Certified Angus Beef  
Shish Kabobs  
or  
Pan-fried Mahi-Mahi  
with Mango Salsa  
or  
Chicken Breast Picatta  
served over Fettuccini

### - Dessert -

Carrot Cake with Carrot Jelly  
& Raspberry Sauce  
or  
Traditional Crème Brûlée

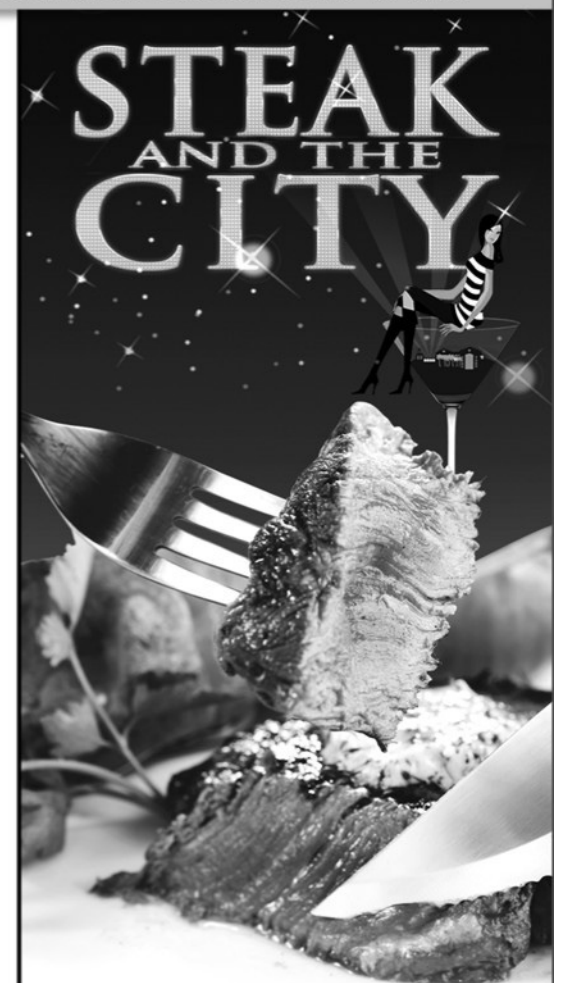
Choose two side dishes from our  
extensive list and one glass of  
Concha y Toro's Casillero del Diablo  
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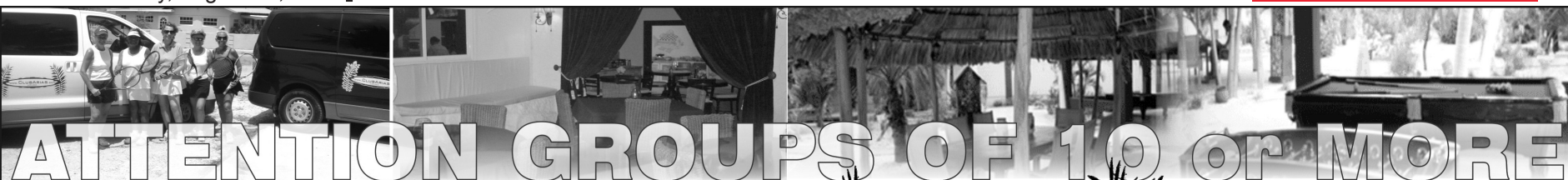
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*Economic Affairs, Aviation and Sports Included in Portfolio*

## Richardson Named Commissioner Of Tourism For Dutch St. Maarten



ST MAARTEN - Frans George Richardson has been appointed as Commissioner of Tourism & Economic Affairs, Aviation and Sports for St. Maarten. Prior to this position, Richardson served for three years as a Senator representing St. Maarten in the Netherlands Antilles Parliament. "I am honored to be appointed Commissioner and am eager to work with our partners in the private sector to usher in a new day for St. Maarten's tourism industry and raise awareness of our island in key markets across Europe and the Americas," said Frans Richardson, Commissioner of Tourism & Economic Affairs, Aviation and Sports for St. Maarten. "Tourism is St. Maarten's most important industry and the pillar of our economy," noted Richardson, "but it's also what we do best with 37 immaculate beaches and the most restaurants found on any Caribbean island." "Despite the challenges of our

current economic climate," Richardson said, "I am extremely excited to take the helm and steer our tourism development in a positive direction by incorporating our unique cultural elements into the tropical appeal that has made St. Maarten a longtime favorite among travelers." He expressed optimism for a positive turnaround as the country is strategically positioned with convenient airlift from most major U.S. markets. "Airlift will continue to be a major focus for our government so that we are well positioned to reap the benefits of a massive influx of tourism as soon as the global economy begins to recover," he added. Richardson began his political pursuits in 2003 when he was elected to the Island Council in the St. Maarten Government. Prior to his involvement in the political arena, he served as airport operations duty manager at St. Maarten's Princess Juliana International Airport.

Born and raised on St. Maarten, Richardson has remained a loyal native of the island where he went to school and developed his career. Considered by many as a trendsetter among St. Maarten's young entrepreneurs, Richardson is a renowned businessman and elected public official, and is driven to excel in all initiatives. A well-rounded individual, Richardson has an extensive history of successful leadership in various capacities, including the car rental industry, cinema (he established the first multi-screen movie theatre in St. Maarten), real estate and construction. Richardson is a member of the Frans Richardson Educational Foundation, the Soualiga Son Foundation, as well as various sporting organizations throughout the island. Additionally, he is a Member of the Permanent Committee on Constitutional Affairs (PCCA) for St. Maarten. St. Maarten is truly a unique island in several ways. It is the smallest island in the world to be shared by two nations, the Netherlands and France, creating a European-influenced vibe with a Caribbean flair. St. Maarten is also the culinary capital of the Caribbean with an eclectic array of elegantly-perfected culinary fusion that keeps "food lovers" returning each year. And with more than 300 restaurants, the island has something for everyone. Located at the northern end of the Lesser Antilles, the island has 37 breathtaking beaches and is home to many historical and family-oriented attractions including the vastly abundant treasure of rare animal and plant species at the St. Maarten Zoological and Botanical

Garden. The historically-pivotal Fort Amsterdam, the St. Maarten Museum and the picturesque and symbolic Mount Concordia, where a treaty and harmonious peace was forged between the island's two cultures more than 350 years ago, provide other unique attractions. The Dutch capital of Philipsburg offers duty-free shopping and a bustling city atmosphere in the heart of the Caribbean, while nightlife activities provide endless entertainment at the island's 14 casinos and numerous nightclubs. For water enthusiasts scuba diving and snorkeling facilities are located throughout

the island, which boasts a wide array of marine biodiversity and unique underwater dive sites such as the H.M.S. Proselyte, a notable British frigate which sank in St. Maarten's waters in 1801. Accommodations are varied with many designed to exceed the expectations of even the most discerning traveler and include elegant private villas, family oriented resorts, quaint cottages and luxury spas resorts. Air service is available to Princess Juliana International Airport in St. Maarten from a number of U.S. and Canadian cities as well as Europe, South America and the Caribbean.



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## Sarah: Election without consultation regrettable

PHILIPSBURG--It is regrettable that the Central Government has decided to hold and not postpone Parliament Elections in January without consulting the islands, Democratic Party (DP) leader Island Councilwoman Sarah Wescot-Williams said Wednesday. However, DP will participate in the elections when the time comes.

She said her party still holds firm to the view that a date for St. Maarten to become country needs to be in black and white, and once this is settled there is full support for postponement of Parliament Elections.

As no exact date has yet been agreed to by the Dutch Government, Central Government and the other partners in the kingdom, DP will contest the January elections, Wescot-Williams told The Daily Herald. DP holds one of the three parliamentary seats allotted to St. Maarten in the 22-seat Antillean Parliament. DP Deputy Leader Erno Labega serves as parliamentarian.

The National Alliance (NA), part of the governing coalition on the central and island levels, holds the two other St. Maarten seats. NA Leader Commissioner William Marlin said the manner in which his party will deal with the elections will be a topic for discussion at NA's retreat on Saturday.

Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage announced Wednesday afternoon that the Parliament Elections will continue in January

as scheduled. Her statement came after the Advisory Council of the Netherlands Antilles said no to postponing the elections. The decision reportedly followed some heated discussions in the Council of Ministers.

The advice is not binding, but De Jongh-Elhage said, in this case, it had been made clear from the beginning that government would follow it. Wescot-Williams said the decision of the Council of Ministers to follow the recommendation of the Advisory Council without consulting the islands, especially St. Maarten, was not correct because the advice is not binding.

The Kingdom Council of State had been in favour of postponing the elections a few weeks ago, to aid the ongoing dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles. In light of this earlier advice, Wescot-Williams said, "I think before the advice of the Advisory Council of the Netherlands Antilles was taken into account, consultations should have taken place with the islands."

She added that she was surprised about Constitutional Affairs Minister Roland Duncan's (NA) position that the prime minister's statement had been premature because, from all indications, the decision of the Council of Ministers had been to follow the advice of the Advisory Council from the very beginning, as pointed out by De Jongh-Elhage in her statement.

## What now?

The decision to go ahead and have Antillean Parliament elections in January anyway despite the constitutional changes, based on a less-than-positive advice of the Advisory Council on the proposal to postpone them, means that people will go to the polls to elect a legislature and indirectly a new Central Government that will be in office for only a few months. After all, the term of the new Parliament would start on March 26, 2010, while the agreement is for the Country Netherlands Antilles to be dismantled and the new relations within the Dutch Kingdom to take effect no later than October of the same year.

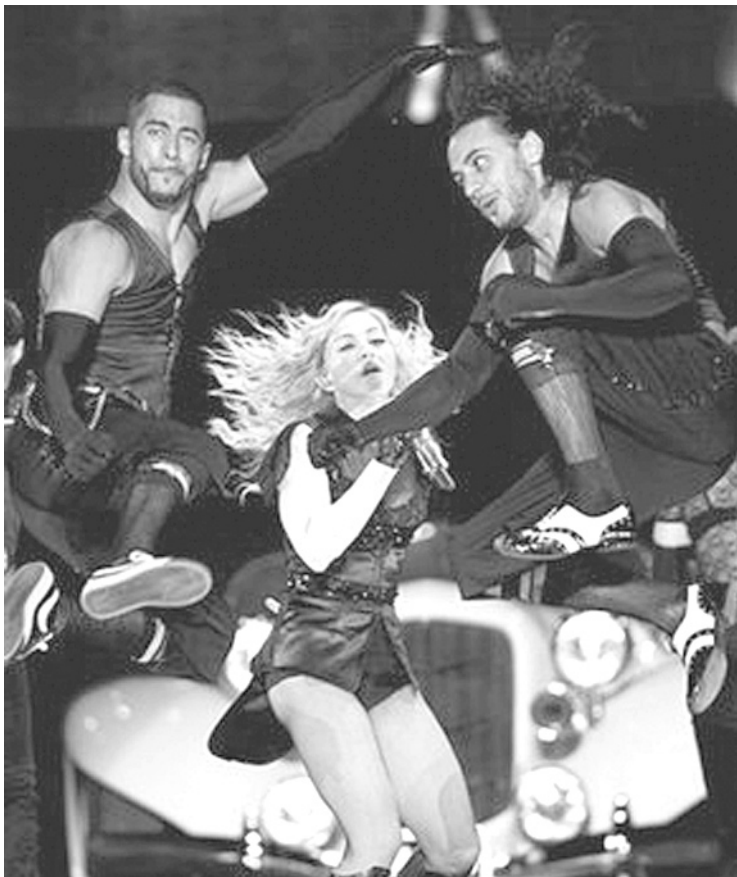
Maintaining an Antillean Parliament after that is unthinkable, because it can't possibly serve the several individual entities that will come out of the restructuring process: Country Curaçao, Country St. Maarten, and the BES islands Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba that will become overseas public entities of the Netherlands. So, yet another election in principle will be needed by September for in any case the Parliaments of Curaçao and St. Maarten if the end-of-October target date for the constitutional reforms is to be met.

This scenario of two elections within less than a year seems a rather costly and undesirable one, also considering the economic downturn and the need to concentrate on mitigating its local effects. One option could be to keep in office the current Island Councils elected for four years in 2007 and transform them into the Parliaments of the new countries for a short transition period, so that the first actual elections for the new Parliaments of Country Curaçao and Country St. Maarten would not have to be held until 2011.

A practical problem with this option is that the Island Council of St. Maarten has 11 seats, while its future Parliament will have 15. By the same token the Government of Country St. Maarten will have seven ministers while there are only a maximum of five commissioners in the Executive Council of whom at least half also have to be in the Island Council, a "double function" that will not even be allowed in Country St. Maarten. Curaçao has similar issues.

Another option is somehow to translate the votes cast in the January elections on the respective islands to the future Parliaments of Country Curaçao and Country St. Maarten. This would also mean that the campaign most likely would be geared principally towards the two latter legislatures to take office more than six months later, rather than an Antillean Parliament on its way out.





U.S. singer Madonna, center, performs during her concert in Bucharest, Romania, Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2009. The concert is part of Madonna's Sticky and Sweet Tour. (AP Photo/Vadim Ghirda)

## Madonna booed in Bucharest for defending Gypsies

By ALINA WOLFE MURRAY,  
Associated Press Writer

BUCHAREST, Romania — At first, fans politely applauded the Roma performers sharing a stage with Madonna. Then the pop star condemned widespread discrimination against Roma, or Gypsies — and the cheers gave way to jeers.

The sharp mood change that swept the crowd of 60,000, who had packed a park for Wednesday night's concert, underscores how prejudice against Gypsies remains deeply entrenched across Eastern Europe.

Despite long-standing efforts to stamp out rampant bias, human rights advocates say Roma probably suffer more humiliation and endure more discrimination than any other people group on the continent. Sometimes, it can be deadly: In neighboring Hungary, six Roma have been killed and several wounded in a recent series of apparently racially motivated attacks targeting small countryside villages predominantly settled by Gypsies.

"There is generally widespread resentment against Gypsies in Eastern Europe. They have historically been the underdog," Radu Motoc, an official with the Soros Foundation Romania, said Thursday. Roma, or Gypsies, are a nomadic ethnic group believed to have their roots in the Indian subcontinent. They live mostly in southern and eastern Europe, but hundreds of thousands have migrated west over the past few decades in search of jobs and better living conditions. Romania has the largest number of Roma in the region. Some say the population could be as high as 2 million, although official data put it at 500,000.

Until the 19th century, Romanian Gypsies were slaves, and they've gotten a mixed response ever since: While discrimination is widespread, many East Europeans are enthusiastic about Gypsy music and dance, which they embrace as part of the region's cultural heritage. That explains why the Roma musicians and a dancer who had briefly joined Madonna onstage got enthusiastic applause. And it also may explain why some in the crowd turned on Madonna when she paused during the two-hour show — a stop on her worldwide "Sticky and Sweet" tour — to touch on their plight.

## Sandra Bullock, Boot Gal, Rocks the "All About Steve" Premiere

Jenny Peters  
Los Angeles — It's all about red boots in Sandra Bullock's crack-up new comedy "All About Steve"; knee-high, chunky heeled red patent leather boots, in fact. As crossword puzzle creator and general oddball Mary Horowitz, Bullock wears those boots throughout the flim, as she wildly pursues Bradley Cooper, a television cameraman she meets on a blind date. So we kind of expected Bullock to wear some variation of the red boot to the premiere of the film on Wednesday night, Aug. 26, in Hollywood at the Grauman's Chinese Theater, but the actress chose a pair of black suede short boots to go with her minidress instead. "The evolution of the boot, the red boot, was something," Bullock, who also produced the movie, recalled at an earlier press

conference. "It was written as a red boot but there are so many different ways to go with the red boot, as we women know. But that was the right one and that was \$14.95 off of shoe.com and genius." "All About Steve" is genius too, and part of that comes in the casting, as a motley array of characters join in Mary's road trip to self-discovery. Most of those folks made the scene at the premiere, too, including Cooper, Thomas Haden Church, Katy Mixon, D. J. Qualls, Luenell, Kerri Kenney, and Beth Grant. They joined Bullock's husband Jesse James, plus fans George Lopez, Nikka Costa and Jillian Reynolds. Cooper, whose star has headed to the stratosphere this summer with the megahit "The Hangover," answered his fans prayers by promising a sequel to that Vegas nightmare.



FWD101 Sandra Bullock arrives at the Film premiere of "All About Steve" in Los Angeles, Calif. on Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2009. (Fashion Wire Daily/Maria Ramirez)

"We're really excited about the second one and we were talking about it as we were filming the first one, because we had so much fun and then Warner Brothers actually wanted to do it before it even came out," he said.



A film crew is shown on location at Congress Avenue near the Texas state Capitol for the Robert Rodriguez action movie 'Machete,' Thursday, Aug. 27, 2009, in Austin, Texas. (AP Photo/Harry Cabluck)

## No real rally, it's Rodriguez movie shot in Austin

AUSTIN, Texas — A political rally being staged near the Texas Capitol had nothing to do with real Republicans or Democrats.

A stretch of Congress Avenue was closed to traffic Thursday as part of filming for the Robert Rodriguez action movie "Machete," featuring Robert De Niro.

One scene included a red, white and blue decorated stage with a banner saying "Vote for Senator McLaughlin." De Niro, in a suit, red tie and cowboy hat, appeared to be giving a campaign speech. Rodriguez previously said the movie will also feature Jessica Alba, Lindsay Lohan and Cheech Marin. It is based on the "fake" trailer in the 2007 movie "Grindhouse."

Several of Rodriguez's productions including the "Spy Kids" movies were filmed in Texas. His Troublemaker Studios is located in Austin.



# Three genes combine for 7 coat types in dogs



This undated handout photo provided by the journal Science, shows a small sample of the variety of coat types found in the domestic dog. Pictured left to right are a Smooth Coated Dachshund, Border Terrier, Jack Russell Terrier Mix and Yorkshire Terrier.  
(AP Photo/Edouard Cadieu, Science)

By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID, AP Science Writer  
WASHINGTON – From short to shaggy, nearly all the differences in dogs' coat types result from variations in just three genes, according to researchers studying how genes work together. "What's important for human

health is the way we found the genes involved in dog coats and figured out how they work together, rather than the genes themselves," said Dr. Elaine A. Ostrander of the National Human Genome Research Institute.

"We think this approach will help pinpoint multiple genes involved in complex human conditions, such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes and obesity," Ostrander, chief of the cancer genetics branch, said in a statement. Variations in the DNA — the blueprint for life — in more than 1,000 dogs from 80 breeds were studied by the researchers. The results were then compared to descriptions of various coat types.

The study, published Thursday in the online edition of the journal Science, found that nearly all of the varieties of dog coats can be accounted for by combinations of genes called RSPO2, FGF5 and KRT71. The findings apply to purebred dogs: "We don't know enough about the genetics of mutts," commented co-author K. Gordon Lark, a biology professor at the University of Utah.

Dogs are descended from wolves and, like wolves, short-haired

dogs such as beagles had only the ancestral forms of the three genes, none with variations.

On the other hand, dogs like President Obama's Portuguese Water Dog have variations in all three genes, producing animals with curly hair plus a "mustache" and large eyebrows.

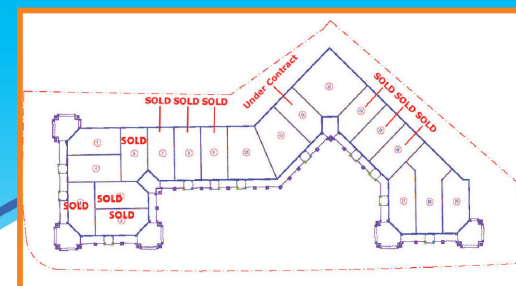
Other findings:

- A variation in the RSPO2 gene produces wire-haired dogs.
- Combine variations in the RSPO2 and KRT71 genes and you get dogs with wiry and curly hair, such as Airedale terriers.
- A change in the FGF5 gene results in longhair breeds such as golden retrievers.
- But long-haired dogs with beards such as the bearded collie have variations in both the FGF5 and RSPO2 genes.
- And combining the FGF5 and KRT71 genes results in curly hair dogs such as Irish water spaniels.

The research was funded by the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, the Nestle Purina Company, the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation and the University of California, Davis, Veterinary Genetics Laboratory.

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with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will feature a beautiful swimming pool with a beach style entry with waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting. The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-story lobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors. The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool.

The garden will feel like an oasis true to the projects name. There will also be a recreation room and sofas throughout the common area to lounge and relax.

Further amenities include a 24/7 security, a full concierge and a rental program for the owners who want to earn a return on their investment. The concierge service will be helpful to assist the owners in making their 'homecoming' a very pleasant return. Each condo will have one designated parking space exclusive to the owners.

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## CasaTua Barcelona Downtown & Pizzeria Palm Beach

The Casa Tua Barcelona downtown atmosphere is cool and relaxed with its in- and outside seating while the Pizzeria Palm Beach location serves their guests on a cozy outside terrace.

Both restaurants serve the same brick-oven thin crusted pizzas and both pour the same homemade Sangria. Where the restaurants differ from each other is certain menu items and the opening hours. Casa Tua Barcelona downtown is open for lunch with delicious lunch specials from Monday till Friday. One lunch special is a \$ 9.95 Beef Tenderloin with red wine sauce. All nights of the week Casa Tua Barcelona serves Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata Negra which we import directly from Andalucia. As your main course you should choose the



fabulous Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by the chef!

The staff at both popular eateries have set the standard on the island for the term "great service" not only with your dining pleasure, but recognized as 'the' professionals in assisting guests with the perfect cocktail, paired wine or other beverages.

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An honor guard carries the casket of Sen. Edward Kennedy to a hearse at the Kennedy compound in Hyannis Port, Mass., Thursday, Aug. 27, 2009. Sen. Edward Kennedy died at his home on Cape Cod after a year-long struggle with brain cancer at the age of 77.

Associated Press

## Mourners salute Kennedy: 'He was such a good man'

DENISE LAVOIE

RAY HENRY

Associated Press Writers

BOSTON (AP) — A motorcade carrying the body of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy passed miles of mourners Thursday as it proceeded from the Cape Cod home where he spent his final days to the presidential library in Boston bearing the name of one of his slain brothers. Thousands of spectators gathered in Hyannis Port and Boston, clutching cameras, tissues and at least one flag of Ireland, the Kennedys' ancestral homeland. Motorists stopped their cars on overpasses, hoping to catch a glimpse. Crowds applauded and cheered as the motorcade rolled slowly through Boston. Virginia Cain, 54, said she walked just under 2 miles (3 kilometers) from her summer home in Centerville to the roads leading to the Kennedy compound so she could witness history.

"I can remember where I was when President Kennedy died, and I'll remember where I was when the senator left Hyannis Port," she said. The late senator's loved ones — including niece Caroline, daughter of former President

John F. Kennedy, and son Patrick, a Rhode Island congressman — arrived before noon for a private Mass at the family compound in Hyannis Port.

Relatives watched afterward from near the house as the flag-draped casket was loaded into a hearse, then took turns touching the vehicle on the way to their cars. As the motorcade pulled away for the 70-mile (115-kilometer) trip to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston, Patrick Kennedy, a son of the late senator and a congressman himself, sat in the passenger seat of the hearse, near tears.

The motorcade passed several sites important to the senator on the way to the library, which he helped develop and where he will lie in repose until Friday, a Senate office statement said. By mid-afternoon, more than 100 people waited for the public viewing to begin at 6 p.m.

Ellen Freed, 58, of Brookline, arrived about 2:30 p.m. Freed, who is disabled because of epilepsy, credits Kennedy for her federally assisted housing.

Continued on next page

## Police: Sex offender kept victim, kids in shed

JULIET WILLIAMS  
SAMANTHA YOUNG

Associated Press Writers

PLACERVILLE, California

(AP) — A woman who was snatched from a bus stop as an 11-year-old child in 1991 turned up Thursday after being held for the past 18 years in isolation in a backyard compound by a convicted sex offender who fathered two children with her, police said.

The details about her time in captivity emerged after Jaycee Lee Dugard surfaced at a police station in Northern California, nearly two decades after she vanished outside her home. Police said Phillip Garrido, 58, held her the entire time as a virtual slave, sheltered from the outside world in tents, sheds and outbuildings in his backyard in suburban Antioch.

Continued on page 5



This undated photo provided by her stepfather William Carl Probyn shows Jaycee Lee Dugard. A woman walked in into a San Francisco Bay area police station Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2009, saying she was Jaycee Lee Dugard, a blond, pony tailed girl who was abducted as she headed to a school bus stop 18 years ago, said sheriff's Lt. Les Lovell of the El Dorado Sheriff's Department.

Associated Press

## Auschwitz blueprints given to Israeli PM

DAVID RISING

Associated Press Writer

BERLIN (AP) — Architectural plans for the Auschwitz death camp that were discovered in Berlin last year were handed over to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday for display at Israel's Holocaust memorial.

The 29 sketches of the death camp built in Nazi-occupied Poland date as far back as 1941. They include detailed blueprints for living barracks, delousing facilities and crematoria, including gas chambers, and are considered important for understanding the genesis of the Nazi genocide.

The sketches are initialed by the head of the SS, Heinrich Himmler, and Auschwitz commandant Rudolf Hoess.

"There are those who deny that the Holocaust happened," Netanyahu said. "Let them come to Jerusalem and look at these plans, these plans for the factory of death."

The Axel Springer Verlag, publisher of the mass circulation Bild newspaper, obtained the plans from a private person who said he found them when cleaning out a flat in what was formerly East Berlin.

Continued on page 6



## Good man

Continued from front page

"I live in a HUD building, and if it wasn't for Ted Kennedy, I would be homeless," she said.

Trudy Murray, 86, a native of Ireland who later lived in England, said Kennedy helped her and her family get visas when they moved to the United States in 1969.

"I loved Ted Kennedy. I cried yesterday when I put on the TV and saw that he had passed away," said Murray, a retired nurse who now lives in Brockton.

"He made his mistakes, but I don't even want to hear them. I forgive all of them because he was such a good man," she said.

A private memorial service is planned at the library Friday evening and a funeral Mass on Saturday morning at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Basilica—commonly known

as the Mission Church — in Boston. President Barack Obama is scheduled to speak at the funeral.

All the living former presidents will also attend the funeral, said a person familiar with the arrangements who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release details.

Shortly before the Mass, 44 sitting senators and 10 former senators will be among a group of about 100 dignitaries paying their respects at the library before heading to the cavernous basilica.

Thursday's motorcade went by St. Stephen's Church, where his mother, Rose, was baptized and her funeral Mass celebrated; crossed the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway, the Boston park that he helped create and that is named after his mother; and passed historic Faneuil Hall, where the bell rang 47 times,



Family members of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, including at far left, Teddy Kennedy Jr. (blue tie), Jean Kennedy Smith, foreground center (in glasses), and widow Victoria Kennedy, right, watch as an honor guard carries his casket into the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston on Thursday, Aug. 27, 2009. Kennedy will lie in repose until his funeral Mass in Boston on Saturday.

Associated Press

once for each year Kennedy served in the Senate. Kennedy will be buried

Saturday evening near his slain brothers — former President Kennedy and former

Sen. Robert F. Kennedy — at Arlington National Cemetery in northern Virginia.




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# 9/11 aims to become single largest day of service

VERENA DOBNIK  
Associated Press Writer  
NEW YORK (AP) — President Barack Obama is asking Americans to volunteer on Sept. 11, making this year's anniversary of the terror attacks the first National Day of Service and Remembrance, organizers announced Thursday.

David Paine, the president of MyGoodDeed, one of the organizations responsible for the event, told a news conference near the site of the World Trade Center: "We hope to rekindle the spirit of unity and compassion that followed the terrorist attacks."

Paine joined other members of the 9/11 community to unveil a national campaign to build support for the privately funded effort. They urged volunteers to use a Web site launched Thursday that shares service projects and opportunities throughout the country.

Organizers said they hope the 10th anniversary of the attacks in 2011 will mark the single largest day of service in U.S. history.

This year's volunteers include prominent musicians staging a tribute concert on Sept. 11. Gavin DeGraw, The Roots and others will perform at Manhattan's Beacon Theatre,

with free tickets going to relatives of victims, recovery workers, volunteers and those who served tours in the military after the attacks. The rest of the tickets are being distributed by lottery.

The show will also feature actor Gary Sinise, talk-show host Jimmy Fallon, the Harlem Boys and Girls Choir and singer Anjulie.



David Paine, left, president and founder of MyGoodDeed, holds a news conference Thursday, Aug. 27, 2009, in New York, to announce and unveil plans to build widespread national support for marking the September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance in 2009 and beyond. Joining Paine, from left, are President of the National September 11 Memorial and Museum Joe Daniels, and 9/11 family member and Founder of Voices of September 11 Mary Fetchet.  
Associated Press

## Tourists at national park rerouted due to marijuana

GARANCE BURKE

Associated Press Writer

SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK, California (AP) — An entire section of this Sierra Nevada national park was closed to visitors Thursday while rangers helicoptered in to destroy a marijuana garden growing just a half-mile away from a crystal-filled cave popular with tourists.

Authorities said the garden's proximity to such a heavily trafficked tourist site was unusual and reflects a newfound boldness among growers, who are now planting marijuana near trails and access roads at an increasing number of parks. "The real tragedy about this is that visitors won't have access to an attraction some have traveled hundreds of miles to see," said Adrienne Freeman, a spokeswoman for the park. "And what's worse, this pot has been growing next to a sensitive area where there are dozens of species at risk that are only in this park."

While the park is best known for its giant sequoia trees, the caves contain hundreds of unique species, at least a couple of dozen of which were discovered over the last few years. Rangers lowered down on ropes Thursday from a helicopter into Yucca Creek Canyon to investigate at least four grow sites in the park. There, among the oaks and conifers, they found trash, propane tanks and miles of hose to irrigate the pot plants, law enforcement officials said. About three-quarters of the marijuana already had been harvested.

Authorities said the value of the pot plants grown at the site, including what was already harvested, was at least \$20 million.

The raid marks the first time Sequoia National Park has closed a public exhibit for a drug bust, which will cost about \$50,000 in lost revenue from ticket sales.

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# Napolitano: Politics didn't push stimulus projects

ANABELLE GARAY  
EILEEN SULLIVAN

Associated Press Writers  
DALLAS (AP) — Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said Thursday that politics did not influence the decision to spend millions of dollars in stimulus money on little-used border checkpoints while passing over higher-priority projects.

Members of Congress have asked for answers after The Associated Press showed that the Obama administration did not follow its internal priority list when handing out money to repair border stations nationwide.

Two Montana senators have taken credit for securing money for projects in their state, including \$15 million for a border crossing with Canada that sees about three travelers a day. Democratic Sen. John Tester said he and colleague Max Baucus personally appealed to Napolitano to make that and other Montana projects happen.

At a Dallas news conference Thursday, Napolitano said the AP story "was just wrong and I'll say that because there was no kind of political issues



**This March 30, 2007, file photo provided by the Daniels County Leader shows the Whitetail, Mont., border checkpoint at left. At right is the Canadian border crossing station. The small checkpoint along Montana's border with Canada, which serves about three travelers every day, will receive \$15 million for repairs under President Barack Obama's economic stimulus plan. Until recently, the project was not considered a high priority for the Department of Homeland Security.**  
Associated Press

involved there."

Napolitano did not say what was incorrect about the story and the department has not asked for a correction.

The AP reviewed the department's priority list, which showed that some

low-priority projects were being funded ahead of more pressing needs. On Thursday, the AP renewed its request for the department to release its justification for deviating from the list, which Congress requires to be updated

annually.

A House oversight committee has added the checkpoint projects to its investigation into how the stimulus money is being spent. The top Republican on that committee, Rep. Darrell Issa,

of the border state California, sent Napolitano a letter Wednesday, questioning why some projects leapfrogged others.

In promoting the stimulus, President Barack Obama banned "earmarks," which lawmakers routinely slip into bills to pay for pet projects, and he told agencies to "develop transparent, merit-based selection criteria" for spending.

But Customs and Border Protection, which sets the priorities for all border station projects nationwide, said it would not provide the priority list. Officials said the list was just a starting point and would be too easily misunderstood. Officials said they could select projects out of order for any number of reasons.

Napolitano has acknowledged that politicians can influence an administration's spending plans. A busy border station in her home state, for instance, was ranked No. 34 on the master priority list. But as governor of Arizona, also a border state, she lobbied hard to get it at the top of the Bush administration's spending plan.

Under the stimulus, the Nogales, Arizona, checkpoint with Mexico will receive \$199 million, five times more than any other project.

"I cannot claim credit totally for the \$200 million for Nogales," Napolitano said in April, adding, "The governor of Arizona may have had something to do with it, but the secretary did not."

CBP officials provided justifications for some but not all of the projects that were funded out of order. They would not address what role Tester and Baucus played in securing \$15 million for a border station in the sleepy town of Whitetail, Mont., the size and cost of a Hollywood mansion.

Nor have they addressed another why the Westhope, N.D., checkpoint, which serves about 73 people a day and is among the lowest-priority projects, is set to get nearly \$15 million for renovations.

## Coast Guard proposes ballast water rules

DENNIS CONRAD

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Coast Guard on Thursday proposed national standards for regulating the release in port of ships' ballast water, which can introduce new, sometimes detrimental species to U.S. ecosystems.

The plan would establish a limit on the number of invasive organisms that can be released along with a vessel's ballast water while the ship is in port. That limit would initially follow a formula used by the International Maritime Commission — a standard adopted by some states, but considered weak by many environmentalists.

The goal is to establish by 2016 a national standard similar to California's, which is considered 1,000 times more stringent than the limits set by the international commission's formula.

Ballast water helps keep ships stable while they take on or unload cargo. Vessels can acquire ballast water in home ports or elsewhere, taking in microorganisms and fish along with it and carrying them to new places. Efforts to fix environmental damage caused by organisms that travel along with ballast water can prove quite costly — an estimated \$200 million a year for the Great Lakes alone.

For years, environmentalists, particularly in the Great Lakes region, battled for tougher restrictions. They increasingly relied on individual states to adopt standards of their own, a complicating factor for shippers and less effective in fighting off unwanted species.

Legislation that would impose a national ballast water standard 100 times stronger than the international standard has been repeatedly blocked. A Republican-sponsored bill currently in a House committee has gone nowhere. Democratic Sen. Carl Levin did not include the provision in a measure he had previously sponsored, after environmentalists asked him to drop it.

A federal court ruled during the Bush administration that EPA is empowered under the Clean Water Act to establish ballast standards. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson directed staff earlier this year to review the issue.

Some senators wrote the Obama administration last month urging the EPA and the Coast Guard to work together to develop a single, strict standard. EPA's position is if the Coast Guard and EPA propose different standards, the stronger one would be followed.

The proposal is to be published Friday in the Federal Register and followed by a 90-day public comment period.



# Bernanke personal bank account struck by ID theft

By BRETT ZONGKER and NAFEESA SYEED

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON — No one is safe from identity theft, not even the chairman of the Federal Reserve.

Ben Bernanke's personal checking account became entangled in an elaborate identity-theft scheme after his wife Anna's purse was stolen last August at a Capitol Hill Starbucks. According to a District of Columbia police report, it contained her Social Security card, checkbook, credit cards and IDs.

It's not been revealed how much money was stolen from the Bernankes' account. But someone started cashing checks on their bank account just days after the purse was stolen from her chair. The thefts helped fuel an

ongoing investigation into a sophisticated ring.

Losses from the fraud totaled more than \$2.1 million and involved at least 10 financial institutions, court document said. Clyde Austin Gray Jr. of Waldorf, Md., a suspected ringleader in the scheme, pleaded guilty on July 22 in Alexandria, Va., federal court.

The banks bore primary responsibility for the losses and the victims' accounts, including the Bernankes, were most likely made whole.

"Identity theft is a serious crime that affects millions of Americans each year," Bernanke said in a statement. "Our family was but one of 500 separate instances traced to one crime ring. I am grateful for the law enforcement officers who patiently and

diligently work to solve and prevent these financial crimes."

Prosecutors wrote that Gray hired pick pockets then made counterfeit IDs for the participants. The coconspirators conducted the bank transactions, and Gray took a cut of the proceeds.

At least one check from the Bernanke account for \$900 was deposited Aug. 13, 2008, into the account of another identity theft victim at a Bank of America branch in suburban Maryland, according to an affidavit filed in D.C. Superior Court. Authorities alleged that George L. Reid, 41, of Washington, cashed checks that day amounting to at least \$9,000 in a string of transactions after the fake deposits inflated the related account balances.



**In this Saturday, Sept. 1, 2007 file photo, Federal Reserve Bank Chairman Ben Bernanke and his wife Anna arrive for a meeting at Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming. According to a D.C. police report, Anna Bernanke's purse was stolen in Aug. 2008 from her chair at a Capitol Hill Starbucks. From there, the Bernankes' checking account was swept up into a larger scheme first reported by Newsweek magazine Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2009.**

Associated Press

Bank of America spokeswoman Tara Burke said Thursday, "We're looking into it. We're still gathering facts."

Brian Lapidus, an identity theft expert with Kroll Fraud Solutions, said it's not unusual to hear of high-ranking officials caught up by identity theft. His firm has worked with celebrities, senators and others who have been victims.

"To an identity thief, we're all just names, Social Security numbers and dates of birth," Lapidus said. "Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in America."

Beth Givens, director of the Privacy Rights Clearing House in San Diego, agreed, saying some Fortune 500 executives have been targeted because they have considerable financial resources. Still, she said, the Bernanke case sounds unique.

"I find this case interesting because it's a crime ring engaged in activities that have been primarily the purview of petty individual criminals — purse snatching," she said.

Ten defendants, including Reid, have been identified in the investigation conducted by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Secret Service and D.C. police. The scheme involved using stolen IDs,

bank records, personal checks and other items to impersonate victims at bank branches, according to an affidavit signed by Postal Inspector William J. Aiello.

Victims were targeted in D.C., Maryland, Virginia, Illinois and elsewhere. Part of the scheme involved checks stolen from the Combined Federal Campaign for the National Capital Area, an official federal government-sponsored charity.

Court filings show Reid has confessed to depositing checks from an account that belonged to someone named "B.B." He was first charged in D.C. Superior Court for identity theft and had confessed to law enforcement officials, according to the June 8 affidavit filed in Alexandria, Va., federal court where the case was transferred.

An arrest warrant for Reid, though, is outstanding in the current case, according to court records. Sylvester Vaughn pleaded guilty on July 6 and is scheduled for sentencing with Gray in September.

A message to an attorney who represented Reid in the D.C. case was not immediately returned. Court records didn't show an attorney for Reid in the current case.

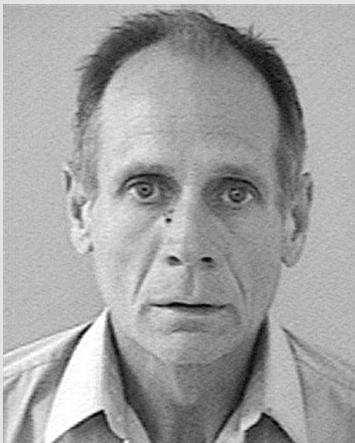
## Sex offender

Continued from front page

"None of the children have ever been to school, they've never been to a doctor," El Dorado County Undersheriff Fred Kollar said. "They were kept in complete isolation in this compound, if you will."

There was electricity from electrical cords, rudimentary outhouse, rudimentary shower, "as if you were camping," he said.

Prison officials said Garrido later admitted the



**In this July 7, 2006 file photo, Dr. Conrad Murray poses for a photo in Houston. A law enforcement official tells The Associated Press on Monday, Aug. 24, 2009, that the Los Angeles County coroner has ruled Michael Jackson's death a homicide. Murray, Jackson's personal physician, is the target of a manslaughter probe headed by Los Angeles police.**

Associated Press



kidnapping after meeting with his parole officer. He brought Dugard and the two children, ages 11 and 15, to the meeting. Garrido and his wife Nancy Garrido, 54, were arrested for investigation of kidnapping and conspiracy on Wednesday, police said. Phillip Garrido is also being held for investigation of rape by force, lewd and lascivious acts with a minor and sexual penetration, said Jimmie Lee, a spokesman for the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department. Phillip Garrido has a conviction for rape by force or fear and was paroled from a Nevada state prison in 1999, according to the California Department of Corrections

and Rehabilitation.

Dugard was in good health when she came into a San Francisco Bay area station. She was reunited Thursday with her mother, who was overjoyed to learn the ordeal was over and the daughter she feared dead was actually alive and well.

Dugard's stepfather, the last person to see her in 1991 and a longtime suspect in the case, said he was overwhelmed after doing everything he could to help find her.

"It broke my marriage up. I've gone through hell, I mean I'm a suspect up until yesterday," Carl Probyn, 60, told The Associated Press at his home in Orange, California.



## Blueprints

Continued from front page

The company and Germany's federal archive have confirmed blueprints' authenticity. But the publisher said the numbering found on the backs of the plans indicate they may have been taken from an archive, possibly the collection of documents on the Third Reich kept by the East German secret service, the Stasi. Axel Springer Verlag said several other documents from the same archive had surfaced after the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall. Bild editor Kai Diekmann told Netanyahu and Avner Shalev, the chairman of Israel's Holocaust memorial Yad Vashem, decided to give them the sketches because they wanted to ensure that as many people as possible could see them.

"These plans have an important function — they remind us of a crime that, with the passing of time, seems ever more incomprehensible," Diekmann said. "It is of the utmost

importance to continue to be reminded of it."

While they are not the only original Auschwitz blueprints that still exist — others were captured by the Soviet Red Army and brought back to Moscow — they will be the first for Israel's Yad Vashem memorial, its chairman told The Associated Press.

"This set is a very early one, which was found here in Berlin, from the autumn of '41," Shalev said. "It brings a better understanding of the whole process, and the intention of the planners of the complex, and from this perspective it is important."

Shalev said the sketches will be on display at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem beginning Jan. 27, 2010, as part of a special exhibit marking the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

The blueprints include general plans for the original Auschwitz camp and the expansion of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp, where most of the killings were carried out.

More than 1 million people, mostly Jews, died in the gas

chambers or through forced labor, disease or starvation at the camp, which the Nazis built after occupying Poland.

Netanyahu is in Berlin for meetings with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier and other officials. Later, the Israeli leader is scheduled to visit a house on Berlin's Wannsee lake that was the site of the Jan. 20, 1942 "Wannsee Conference" — a watershed in Nazi policy against Europe's Jews.

The building now houses a museum documenting the Holocaust and the notorious meeting, which was once thought to be when the Nazis decided to stop deporting and randomly killing Jews and instead to industrialize their murder.

Though debate continues, most historians now agree the decision was made some months earlier — by Adolf Hitler himself, even though no written order from him has ever been found.

Hundreds of thousands of Jews had already been murdered



by the time 15 civil servants, SS and party officials met at Wannsee. It is now believed by many that Reinhard Heydrich, the Nazi Security Service and Security Police head, called the meeting to make sure everybody knew what Hitler wanted done and to establish SS oversight of the process.

Shalev said the blueprints showing that the construction of Auschwitz was already being planned in 1941 help to reinforce that argument.

"The Wannsee conference ... was a kind of coordination," Shalev said. "The process of the Final Solution started to

be implemented a few months before it, so the plans that were found from late '41 are more evidence."

A large yellowed plan, dated April 30, 1942 and titled "general building plan concentration camp Auschwitz" provides a wider view, showing the barracks but also roads, other buildings and the outlying area. Another drawing dated Oct. 14, 1941, shows the plans for construction of a "Waffen SS prisoner of war camp" with rows of what appear to be barracks. A notation in the bottom right says it was drafted by a prisoner, "Nr. 471."



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<b>R</b>	<b>INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS</b>	daily: 5:00 matinee: 1:45	8:00 late show: 11:00	<b>NEW</b>
<b>R</b>	<b>THE HANGOVER</b>	daily: 8:00 matinee: 10:15	late show: 12:30	
<b>PG</b>	<b>ALIENS IN THE ATTIC</b>	daily: 4:45 matinee: 12:15	2:30 late show:	
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>G.I.: JOE: THE RISE OF THE COBRA</b>	daily: 7:00 matinee: 9:30	late show: 12:00	
<b>R</b>	<b>THE ORPHAN</b>	daily: 6:15 matinee: 12:30	8:45 late show: 11:30	
<b>PG</b>	<b>SHORTS</b>	daily: 4:15 matinee: 12:00	6:15 late show: 10:15	
<b>PG</b>	<b>ICE AGE 3</b>	daily: 4:00 matinee: 12:00	6:00 late show:	<b>3D</b>
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE</b>	daily: 5:30 matinee: 12:45	7:45 late show: 10:00	

### AT PASEO HERENCIA

<b>R</b>	<b>FINAL DESTINATION 4</b>	daily: 5:30 matinee: 1:30	7:30 late show:	<b>3D</b>
<b>R</b>	<b>THE UGLY TRUTH</b>	daily: 9:30 matinee: 11:45	late show: 11:45	
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE</b>	daily: 4:00 matinee: 1:45	6:30 late show: 11:30	
<b>PG</b>	<b>HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE</b>	daily: 4:30 matinee: 1:00	late show:	
<b>R</b>	<b>THE HANGOVER</b>	daily: 7:15 matinee: 9:45	late show: 12:00	
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>JULIE AND JULIA</b>	daily: 4:15 matinee: 1:15	late show:	
<b>R</b>	<b>FUNNY PEOPLE</b>	daily: 8:00 matinee: 11:15	late show: 11:15	
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>DISTRICT 9</b>	daily: 5:15 matinee: 12:30	7:45 late show: 12:15	
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>G.I.: JOE: THE RISE OF THE COBRA</b>	daily: 6:00 matinee: 12:45	8:30 late show: 11:00	



# US-Colombia deal a pretext for military spending

MICHAEL WARREN

Associated Press Writer

BARILOCHE, Argentina (AP) — Venezuela's Hugo Chavez has raised the stakes for Friday's meeting of South American presidents by threatening to break relations with Colombia over plans to give U.S. troops a 10-year lease on its bases.

Chavez says the U.S. has loosed "winds of war" on the continent — a position few diplomats share following tours by U.S. and Colombian officials seeking to calm fears of neighboring nations.

Even so, the bases deal has created uncertainty about regional stability and provided yet another justification for nations to spend big on their militaries. Venezuela has poured about \$4 billion into Russian weapons to counter the threat Chavez sees from the billions in U.S. military aid to Colombia. Ecuador is buying 24 Brazilian warplanes and six Israeli drones to keep a closer watch on its borders. Bolivia has opened a \$100 million line of credit with Russia to buy weapons.

These purchases were in the works even before details of the bases deal were revealed last month by The Associated Press — and defense spending around the region is up sharply, mostly in the name of routine modernization.

The 12 South American nations spent about \$51 billion last year on their militaries — up 30 percent from 2007, according to the Center for a New Majority, a Buenos Aires research group.

That's low compared to the rest of the world — U.S. spending alone is well into the hundreds of billions — but a steep burden for democracies in a relatively peaceful area that is struggling with growing poverty and economic crisis. "None of this is good. The last thing the region



needs is an arms race," said Markus Schultze-Kraft, a Bogota-based analyst with the International Crisis Group, a conflict-resolution organization.

He said the leaders should avoid telling one another: "You are arming yourself, that is why we must continue arming ourselves."

The Latin American Security and Defense Network, a Buenos Aires research group, says that Ecuador tops South American nations in relative defense spending, with 10.7 percent of its national budget.

That's even more than the 9.3 percent spent by Colombia, which has been battling a leftist rebel movement for decades. Venezuela spent 5.2 percent of its much larger, oil-fueled budget on defense last year.

Colombia won't budge on the bases deal, Foreign Minister Jaime Bermudez says. "The negotiations have closed and only await the official signature." He said Colombia may even question other countries about their own deals and arms buildups.

President Alvaro Uribe is expected to make some reassurances to his fellow presidents at the Argentine winter resort of Bariloche. U.S. and Colombian officials

have said the troops are there to fight drug traffickers and leftist rebels, and that the troops won't cross boundaries without permission.

But Latin American leaders and U.S. lawmakers who were not consulted about the pending deal want more explanations.

"Unfortunately this could lead to an escalation of an arms race in the region, and particularly with Venezuela, Ecuador and other countries compensating for what they perceive as an alteration of the balance of power," said Miguel Tinker Salas, a professor at Pomona College in Claremont, California.

Chavez — who has repeatedly denied supporting Colombia's FARC rebels — claims U.S. troops could use the bases to launch operations to unseat Latin American leaders like himself, and says Venezuela will buy Russian tanks to defend itself.

"You can establish 70,000 Yankee bases surrounding Venezuela, but you aren't going to beat the Bolivarian Revolution!" Chavez declared this week.

Moderate leftists also are suspicious of foreign militaries in Latin America. Memories are fresh of the U.S.-backed dictatorships that killed and tortured

their own citizens. Chile's president, Michele Bachelet, is among the survivors.

The unresolved coup in Honduras — by a military with close U.S. ties and training — worries them as well.

Uribe's promises haven't eased these concerns, particularly since he sent his military more than a mile (kilometer) into Ecuadorean territory last year to kill a top rebel commander — and told Chavez and Correa that he'd do it again.

Correa said Colombia's argument that its deal with the U.S. is an internal matter doesn't stand, especially given his claimed right to stage pre-emptive strikes outside Colombia.

"What if later we put nuclear warheads in Ecuador, and declare them to be a matter of national sovereignty?" he told Peru's Radioprogramas while traveling to the summit. "It's absurd — these are things that endanger the whole region."

Various countries have proposed solutions. Correa would put the bases under UNASUR supervision. Brazil and others want to see Colombia's reassurances guaranteed in writing. Bolivia's Evo Morales would like a continent-wide vote on

the Colombia-US deal.

But the deal is done, and Uribe isn't coming to the meeting to negotiate, his foreign minister Jaime Bermudez said.

Several diplomats lamented that President Barack Obama won't be there to make the U.S. case, saying the deal seems out of place with Obama's promise at the Summit of the Americas to usher in a new era of cooperation and good faith.

Brazil, meanwhile, recently bought French submarines and helicopters and is poised to spend \$2 billion for fighter jets to protect its offshore oil and Amazon resources, which many Brazilians fear could be targeted by unnamed foreign powers.

Silva will work at the summit to "reduce tensions that tend to be magnified by the rhetoric and polarization," his spokesman Marcelo Baumbauch said, and he has asked Obama to meet with the South American presidents, perhaps during September's U.N. General Assembly, "to overcome this unhelpful Cold War mentality."

Several analysts complained the bases deal was developed in secret, feeding fears and leading other countries to justify other weapons deals.

"If the United States doesn't want to sell to us, there's China or Russia," Morales said while celebrating the Russian credit line this month. He complained of waiting in vain for U.S. approval to buy six light-attack planes and said any president who invites foreign troops onto his territory is a "traitor" to Latin America.

About 1,500 protesters shared that theme Thursday in downtown Bariloche, far from the heavily guarded Llao Llao hotel, where the presidents will be able to meet in luxurious isolation. The iconic setting is an ideal place for settling differences. Or, there could be more talk of war.



# July, August deadliest months of Afghan war for U.S.



U.S. Marine Gen. Lawrence Nicholson, second from right, walks through the bazaar in the village of Dahaneh during a visit to see progress by Marines and Afghan security forces there Thursday, Aug. 27, 2009, in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. Associated Press

**JASON STRAZIUSO**  
Associated Press Writer  
KABUL (AP) — A roadside bomb and gunfire attack killed a U.S. service member in southern Afghanistan on Thursday, a death that pushed August into a tie with July as the deadliest months of the eight-year war.

The death brought to 44 the number of U.S. troops who have died in Afghanistan this month with four days left in August.

More than 60,000 U.S. troops are in the country — a record number — to fight rising insurgent violence. The number of roadside bombs deployed by militants across the country has skyrocketed, and U.S. forces have moved into new and deadlier areas this summer, in part to help secure the country's Aug. 20 presidential election.

The top U.S. commander in Afghanistan released his new counterinsurgency strategy Thursday, telling troops that

the supply of militants is "effectively endless" and that U.S. and NATO forces need to see the country through the eyes of its villagers.

Gen. Stanley McChrystal said troops "must change the way that we think, act and operate." McChrystal hopes to install a new approach to counterinsurgency where troops will make the safety of villagers the top priority, above killing an endless supply of militants.

"An insurgency cannot be defeated by attrition; its supply of fighters, and even leadership, is effectively endless," the new guidelines said.

When U.S. and NATO troops battle a group of 10 militants and kill two of them, the relatives of the two dead insurgents will want revenge and will likely join the insurgency, the guidelines say, spelling out the formula: "10 minus 2 equals 20 (or more) rather than 8."

"This is part of the reason why eight years of individually successful kinetic actions have resulted in more violence," McChrystal said. He called on troops to think of how they would expect a foreign army to operate in their home countries, "among your families and your children, and act accordingly," to try to win over the Afghan population.

Violence is on the rise in Afghanistan even as it falls in Iraq, where nearly twice as many U.S. troops are still based. Five U.S. troops have died in Iraq this month, three fewer than in July.

A statement from the NATO-led force in Kabul said the U.S. service member died in southern Afghanistan when a patrol responded to the bombing and gunfire attack. No other details were released. Militants unleashed a wave of attacks in southern Afghanistan last week that helped suppress voter turnout

there.

Afghan election officials have released two batches of vote tallies that show President Hamid Karzai with 44.8 percent of the vote and top challenger Abdullah Abdullah with 35.1 percent, based on returns from 17 percent of polling stations. The next partial results are expected Saturday.

Meanwhile, U.S. and Afghan forces battled Taliban militants at a medical center in eastern Afghanistan after a Taliban commander sought treatment there, and a U.S. helicopter gunship fired on the clinic after militants put up resistance.

Reports of the militant death toll from Wednesday's firefight varied widely. The spokesman of the governor of Paktika province said 12 militants died, while police said two were killed. It wasn't clear why the tolls differed. The fighting began after a

wounded Taliban commander sought treatment at a clinic in the Sar Hawza district of Paktika. Afghan forces went to the center and got in a firefight with militants. U.S. forces later provided backup.

Hamidullah Zhwak, the governor's spokesman, said the Taliban commander was wounded Aug. 20. Militants brought him and three other wounded Taliban to the clinic Wednesday. Afghan forces were tipped off to their presence and soon arrived at the scene, he said.

Insurgent snipers fired from a tower near the clinic, and troops called in an airstrike from U.S. forces, Zhwak said. Fighting between some 20 militants and Afghan and U.S. forces lasted about five hours, and 12 Taliban were killed, he said.

"After ensuring the clinic was cleared of civilians, an AH-64 Apache helicopter fired rounds at the building ending the direct threat and injuring the targeted insurgent in the building," a U.S. military statement said.

A U.S. military spokeswoman, Lt. Cmdr. Christine Sidenstricker, said the clinic's doctor gave U.S. troops permission to fire on the clinic. After the battle, Afghan and U.S. forces met with villagers and discussed rebuilding the clinic, a U.S. summary of the meeting said.

Villagers expressed "disgust" that militants used the medical center to fire from and that they understood that the action by Afghan and coalition forces was necessary, the summary said.

Seven insurgents—including the wounded commander — had been detained, the U.S. statement said.

Gen. Dawlat Khan, the provincial police chief, said two militants died in the encounter.



# China denounces Taiwan visit by Dalai Lama

PETER ENAV  
Associated Press Writer  
TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — China on Thursday denounced Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou's decision to allow the Dalai Lama to visit the self-ruled island, casting a shadow over rapidly improving relations between Taipei and Beijing.

However, Beijing appeared to stop short of deliberately undermining Ma's stature and jeopardizing the budding ties across the 100-mile-wide Taiwan Strait.

Ma's announcement — which followed an invitation to the Tibetan spiritual leader by officials from Taiwan's pro-independence opposition — surprised many. The China-friendly leader has made a priority of seeking better relations with the mainland and just last December nixed plans for a visit by the Dalai Lama in what was deemed an attempt to placate Beijing.

China has long vilified the Dalai Lama for what they say are his attempts to fight for independence in Tibet, which has been under Communist rule for decades.

Ma said Thursday he was approving the Dalai Lama's visit because it could help ease the island's pain after the devastation of Typhoon Morakot, the storm that struck Taiwan earlier this month at the cost of an estimated 670 lives.

"The Dalai Lama could come to Taiwan to help rest the souls of the dead and also pray for the well-being of the survivors," he said.

In its first official comment on Ma's decision, China said it "resolutely opposes" the Dalai Lama's visit "in whatever form and capacity."

Quoting an unnamed official at the State Council's Taiwan Affairs Office, the state-run Xinhua News Agency said "the Dalai Lama is not a pure religious figure."

"Under the pretext of religion, he has all along been engaged in separatist activities," the official was quoted as saying. Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council — the Cabinet-level body responsible for relations with China — declined to comment on the Xinhua report.

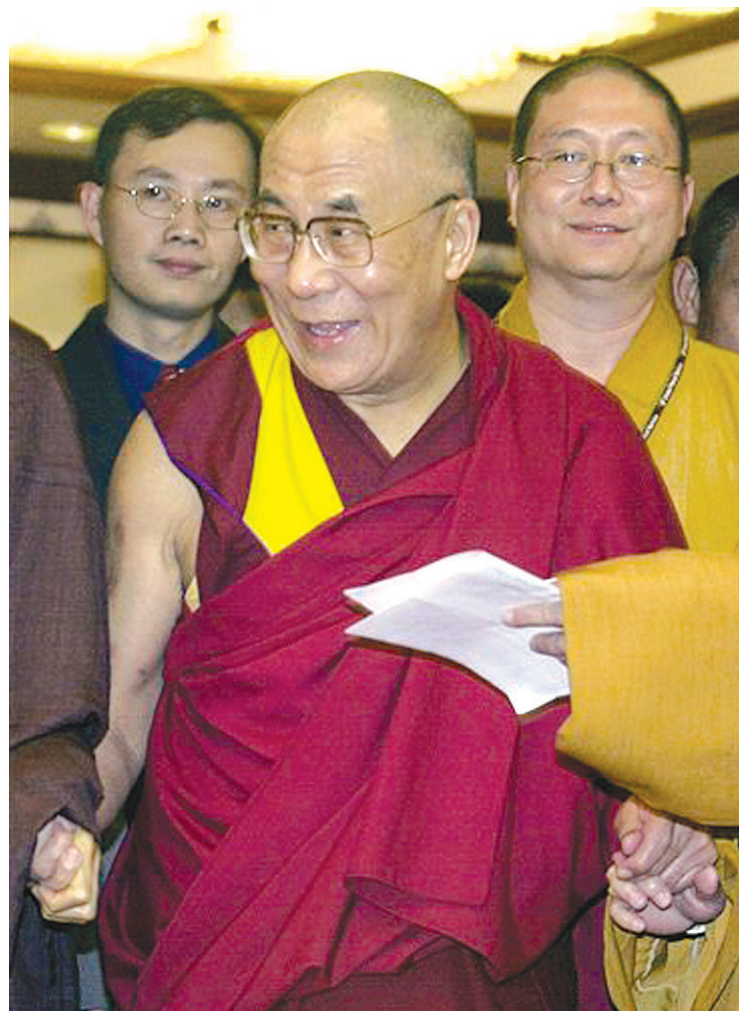
Xinhua did not mention Ma

by name, placing the blame for the Dalai Lama's visit squarely on the opposition Democratic Progressive Party. The distinction appears to be a deliberate Chinese effort to make clear its displeasure with Ma's decision, without necessarily pushing him into a corner.

Such nuance is understandable.

In his 15 months in office, Ma has turned the corner on his DPP predecessor's anti-China policies, bringing the Taiwanese and Chinese economies ever closer together, and speaking in favor of a peace treaty with Beijing. The moves have reduced tensions between the sides to their lowest point since they split amid civil war in 1949, and raised hopes for an eventual solution to one of the world's most enduring conflicts.

Ma's decision to approve the Dalai Lama's visit came a day after leaders of seven municipalities hard hit by Morakot issued a joint statement inviting the Dalai Lama to visit storm victims from Aug. 31 to Sept. 4.



In this file photo taken on April 7, 2001, The Dalai Lama smiles during a press conference before he leaving Taiwan, in Taipei, Taiwan. Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou risked angering China with his surprise announcement Thursday, Aug. 27, 2009, that he has agreed to let the Dalai Lama visit the island to comfort survivors of a devastating typhoon.

Associated Press

## 'Moon rock' in Dutch museum is just petrified wood

By TOBY STERLING

Associated Press Writer

AMSTERDAM — It's not green cheese, but it might as well be.

The Dutch national museum said Thursday that one of its prized possessions, a rock supposedly brought back from the moon by U.S. astronauts, is just a piece of petrified wood.

Rijksmuseum spokeswoman Xandra van Gelder, who oversaw the investigation that proved the piece was a fake, said the museum will keep it anyway as a curiosity.

"It's a good story, with some questions that are still unanswered," she said. "We can laugh about it."

The museum acquired the rock after the death of former Prime Minister Willem Drees in 1988. Drees received it as a private gift on Oct. 9, 1969 from then-U.S.

ambassador J. William Middendorf during a visit by the three Apollo 11 astronauts, part of their "Giant Leap" goodwill tour after the first moon landing.

Middendorf, who lives in Rhode Island, told Dutch broadcaster NOS news that he had gotten it from the U.S. State Department, but couldn't recall the exact details.

"I do remember that (Drees) was very interested in the little piece of stone," the NOS quoted Middendorf as saying. "But that it's not real, I don't know anything about that."

He could not immediately be reached for comment Thursday.

The U.S. Embassy in the Hague said it was investigating the matter.

The museum had vetted the moon rock with a phone call to NASA, Van Gelder said.



In this photo released by the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam on Thursday, Aug. 27, 2009, a rock supposedly brought back from the moon, and a note from the then-U.S. ambassador is seen. The Dutch national museum says one of its prized possessions, a rock supposedly brought back from the moon by U.S. astronauts, is just a piece of petrified wood. The museum acquired the rock after the death of a former prime minister, who received it in 1969 from the then-U.S. ambassador during a visit by the Apollo 11 astronauts.

Associated Press



# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY

### Garcia changes venue and stays the course

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

JERSEY CITY, New Jersey (AP) — Sergio Garcia took another important step toward recovering from a troublesome season with a 6-under 65 for a share of the first-round lead with Paul Goydos and Steve Marino in The Barclays on Thursday.

“We are getting back into it,” Garcia said. “Last week was nice. It was good to see ourselves ... getting that feeling of being out there trying to win a tournament and getting the juices flowing a little bit. We’re just looking forward to hopefully finishing the year well here, keep this good momentum going.”

At a different venue — Liberty National — Garcia stayed the course. He is a two-time winner of this U.S. PGA Tour playoffs event, both times at tree-lined Westchester. On a track with intimidating views inside the ropes and gorgeous vistas of Manhattan, he wound up in a familiar spot.

In some respects, so did Tiger Woods.



Sergio Garcia of Spain, hits his tee shot on the eighth hole during the first round of The Barclays golf tournament, Thursday, Aug. 27, 2009, at Liberty National Golf Club in Jersey City, N.J.

Associated Press

The Barclays is the only tournament Woods has played at least three times without ever finishing in the top 10. He shot a 70.

Most players would have

taken such a score when they first saw Liberty National. The course played significantly shorter, however, with five tees moved forward, and it showed in the scoring.

Nearly half of the field was at par or better, and some two dozen players shot in the 60s. Goydos ran off five birdies in a six-hole span starting with the 16th hole, which he attributed

to great putting, solid wedge play, and the tour rules staff for being gentle with hole locations and some forward tees.

Continued on page 12

### Warrant: Police took guns from Mayweather's home

OSKAR GARCIA,

Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Las Vegas police investigating a shooting outside a skating rink seized two handguns, ammunition and two bulletproof vests from the home of boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. and two cars.

One of the alleged victims in the shooting incident also told investigators that the six-time champion threatened him 10 minutes before another man shot at his car from the rink's parking lot as they drove away on Sunday, according to search warrant documents obtained by The Associated Press on Thursday.

No one was hurt in the shooting. Mayweather has not been named as a suspect, and a man police are seeking has not been arrested, police

Sgt. John Loretto said.

The alleged victim, Quincey Williams, said Mayweather confronted him with two other men because Williams had sent Mayweather a text message one month earlier saying he hopes he loses his upcoming fight. One of the men was later identified as the shooter by the other alleged victim, Damein Bland.

Police have said they suspect a man named “O.C.,” whom the victims said was an associate of Mayweather's known to carry firearms.

Leonard Ellerbe, Mayweather's manager, told the AP on Thursday that Mayweather was not involved in the incident. He referred questions to Mayweather's lawyer, Richard Wright.

“Whatever happened, if they say it had to do with Mr. Mayweather, they're mistaken,” Wright said. “Other than that, he's concentrating

on training for his fight.”

Mayweather is scheduled for a Sept. 19 comeback fight against Juan Manuel Marquez at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

His home, a gray and blue 2008 Rolls-Royce and a second car parked in his garage were searched on Monday, the warrant said.

The warrant said Mayweather told police that he drove the Rolls-Royce to the Crystal Palace Skating Center, but was unaware of any shooting. Mayweather said he did not know an “O.C.,” the warrant said.

Wright said Mayweather was at the rink with his children, and that the guns seized from his home were taken from security guards, and registered to them.



AL Roundup

# Ortiz has 2 homers, one wins it for Boston

BOSTON (AP) — David Ortiz hit his second homer of the game to break a ninth-inning tie and give the Boston Red Sox a 3-2 victory over the Chicago White Sox in the American League on Wednesday.

It was Ortiz's 10th career game-ending homer and franchise-record ninth with the Red Sox. Hall of Famer Jimmie Foxx had eight.

All-Star Tim Wakefield pitched seven strong innings in his return from the disabled list, but the 43-year-old knuckleballer was deprived of a win when Jayson Nix homered off reliever Ramon Ramirez to make it 2-2 in the eighth.

Daniel Bard (1-1) earned his first career victory with 1 1-3 innings of scoreless relief.

Tony Pena (1-2) struck out Kevin Youkilis to start the ninth, then gave up the homer to Ortiz, who also went deep in the second.

Alex Gonzalez also homered for Boston, which beat Chicago for the third straight time and dropped the White Sox (63-64) below .500 for the first time since June 28.

Yankees 9, Rangers 2

At New York, Jorge Posada hit a three-run homer and Andy Pettitte finally gave New York a quality pitching performance in a win over Texas.

Derek Jeter and Mark Teixeira both drove in two runs, and Jerry Hairston Jr. added a solo homer for the Yankees, who have scored at least eight runs in four of their last five games.

Pettitte (11-6) allowed two runs and five hits over seven innings to win his third straight decision. The crisp performance came after New York pitchers had surrendered 39 runs on 52 hits over the last four games, including a 10-9 loss to the Rangers in the series opener.

David Murphy homered and drove in both runs for the Rangers, who dropped five games behind Los Angeles in the AL West and 2½ games behind Boston for the wild card.

## Blue Jays 3, Rays 2

At Toronto, Marco Scutaro scored the winning run for Toronto on a wild pitch after Tampa Bay closer J.P. Howell loaded the bases with three walks.

Rod Barajas hit a tying pinch-hit homer off Howell (6-4) with one out in the ninth. After walking three and with rookie Randy Ruiz up, Howell uncorked a wild pitch that bounced high and away from catcher Gregg Zaun. It was Howell's seventh blown save. Brandon League (2-5) worked one inning for the win.

It was a tough night to be

a home plate umpire. Crew chief Jerry Crawford took a foul ball off his face mask and left after two innings while his replacement, Tom Hallion, was struck in the chest by a pitch from Rays lefty Scott Kazmir in the sixth. Trainers and medical staff rushed to Hallion's aide. He eventually stood up and walked off without assistance. After a 21-minute delay, the game resumed with Hallion at third base. First base umpire Brian O'Nora moved behind the plate and Scott Barry moved from third to first.

## Orioles 5, Twins 1

At Minneapolis, Jeremy Guthrie pitched seven easy innings and Felix Pie homered as Baltimore ended Minnesota's season-high five-game winning streak.

Guthrie (9-12) won his second



Boston Red Sox's David Ortiz celebrates after hitting a solo home run against the Chicago White Sox in the ninth inning to give Boston a 3-2 win in a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston on Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2009. White Sox catcher A.J. Pierzynski is at right.

Associated Press

straight start, allowing six hits and one run.

Twins starter Nick Blackburn (8-9) let No. 9 hitter and backup catcher Chad Moeller reach three times on a walk, a

single and a double. He was 8-4 with a 3.06 ERA before the All-Star break.

The Orioles scored two runs in the first inning and Pie hit his fifth homer in the fourth.

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## Garcia stay

Continued from page 10

"In theory, you have 125 of the best players on the PGA Tour here this week, someone is going to shoot a low round every day," Goydos said. "Today was my chance."

Marino seized on his opportunity, too, getting to 7 under until a bogey on his last hole.

They were one shot ahead of a group that included Charley Hoffman, who stumbled in by missing a 4-foot birdie putt on No. 8 and having to save bogey with an 8-foot putt on his final hole.

Y.E. Yang, in his first tournament since taking down Woods in the final round to win the U.S. PGA Championship, had a 71.

Woods looked solid in his return to The Barclays for the first time in six years, until he lost some control toward the end. Poor tee shots took away easy birdie chances on a pair of par 5s late in his round, and another one led to his lone bogey at No. 8.

Woods declined interview requests, telling tour officials he was going to the chipping area.

"You've got to make hay on the par 5s here," Woods said in a brief interview with XM

Radio. "You don't get too many opportunities around this place, and I only made one birdie on the par 5s."

He probably would have taken a 70 after his first time around Liberty National, a course that has received scant praise from the players this week. The best anyone has said about the course designed by Tom Kite and Bob Cupp is that it is hard.

"It's a long, hard golf course with difficult greens," Goydos said. "I don't think Tom Kite was thinking, 'Let's see how easy I can make this course.' I don't think that was his mindset."

Still, it helped that the hole locations were accessible, and the course wasn't as long as its 7,419 yards. The biggest difference was the 18th, where Woods turned to the right, stopped when he couldn't find the tee markers, then marched 50 yards forward.

"Someone around here is smart," Zach Johnson said under his breath.

Phil Mickelson, a member at Liberty National, made four bogeys in a five-hole span around the turn, the meatiest part of the course. He bounced back for a 70.

The biggest rally, however, belonged to the 29-year-old Garcia.

He opened his year with a



**Tim Clark, of South Africa, smiles after sinking a putt on the sixth hole during the first round for The Barclays golf tournament, Thursday, Aug. 27, 2009, at Liberty National Golf Club in Jersey City, N.J.**

Associated Press

couple of top 10s in Abu Dhabi and Qatar on the European Tour. The rest of the season has been a letdown, consumed by poor play and the breakup

with Morgan Norman, the daughter of Greg Norman. He tied for fourth last week in the Wyndham Championship, which he played only to make

sure he got into the playoffs. He showed quickly that might be more than just a good week. Garcia ran off four birdies on the back nine (he started at No. 10), twice making birdie putts in the 15-foot range. His best shot came on the third hole, a 9-iron from 138 yards into a breeze that was the proper distance on a hole where it can be tough to get it close. Then came the cheers, with consecutive wedges that danced around the cup and set up tap-in birdies.

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"It's obviously very nice, after last week and playing well and being up there all week in contention, to open this tournament with a good, solid round," Garcia said. "Don't be deceived by the scores. It's not an easy course. That's important. And hopefully, we can go out there tomorrow and play another solid round."



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# EEUU podría cortar ayuda económica formal a Honduras

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Miembros del Departamento de Estado estadounidense recomendaron que la expulsión del presidente hondureño Manuel Zelaya sea declarada un “golpe de Estado militar”, dijo un funcionario el jueves, lo que podría costarle al país hasta unos 150 millones de dólares en fondos.

El funcionario, que solicitó no ser identificado, aseguró que el equipo del Departamento de Estado hizo la recomendación a la secretaria de Estado, Hillary Clinton, quien aún no tomó una decisión sobre el asunto pero podría hacerlo en el corto plazo.

Washington ya suspendió cerca de 18 millones en ayuda a Honduras luego del golpe de Estado del 28 de junio, y ésta podría ser formalmente cortada si se toma la decisión, ya que existe una barrera legal a prestar ayuda “al

Gobierno de cualquier país cuyo jefe de Gobierno electo sea depuesto por un golpe de Estado militar o un decreto”. El funcionario señaló que también se debería poner fin a 215 millones de dólares en subvenciones de la Corporación del Desafío del Milenio para Honduras si Clinton determina que hubo un golpe de Estado militar. Cerca de 76 millones de dólares de ese dinero ya se ha desembolsado y un segundo funcionario estadounidense declaró que esto implica que el remanente de unos 139 millones de dólares no se entregaría a Honduras si se toma la decisión.

Los diplomáticos aseguran que Estados Unidos ha tratado de retrasar la determinación formal para dar a la diplomacia la posibilidad de lograr un compromiso negociado que permita la vuelta de Zelaya



Partidarios del depuesto presidente de Honduras Manuel Zelaya participan de una manifestación a su favor afuera de la embajada estadounidense en Tegucigalpa, 26 ago 2009. REUTERS/Edgard Garrido

al poder.

Esos esfuerzos, sin embargo, parecen haber fallado por ahora y Estados Unidos está tomando medidas, incluyendo la decisión el martes de cesar el trámite de algunas visas en su

embajada en Tegucigalpa, para aumentar la presión sobre el Gobierno de facto. “La recomendación del departamento para ella es que la firme”, dijo el primer funcionario estadounidense consultado sobre la

denominación “golpe militar”, señalando que ésta era una respuesta al rechazo del Gobierno de facto a aceptar un compromiso que permita la vuelta de Zelaya al poder antes de las elecciones de noviembre.

## Allanan vivienda de ex presidente Lusinchí en Venezuela

CARACAS (AP) - Los cuerpos de seguridad allanaron el jueves la vivienda del ex presidente venezolano Jaime Lusinchí, en el este de la capital, por orden de un tribunal que investiga un presunto ocultamiento de armas en la propiedad.

Alvaro Lusinchí, hijo del ex presidente, dijo a la televisora Globovisión que una comisión de policías allanó el jueves la casa y calificó la orden judicial como una “patraña” y medida “desesperada” del gobierno del presidente Hugo Chávez para “quitarse de encima el tema de la ley de educación” que aprobó recientemente la Asamblea Nacional, y que ha generado protestas callejeras en la capital y otras ciudades del país. El hijo del ex mandatario dijo que el allanamiento se extendió por unas tres horas, y que las autoridades no confiscaron nada.

“¿Qué más van a encontrar en una casa como ésta que libros y recuerdos familiares?”, inquirió. “Esto forma parte de la persecución que se me ha venido haciendo”, dijo el ex presidente Lusinchí en una conversación telefónica con Globovisión. El ex mandatario expresó desde Miami que el allanamiento es una “arbitrariedad más”, y “tiene que haber sido una solicitud del gobierno, una expresión

de la cobardía y de la forma como ellos quieren liquidar a cualquier persona de gobiernos anteriores o de oposición”.

Lusinchí, quien gobernó Venezuela entre los años 1984-1989, fue citado el año pasado, junto con otros 13 funcionarios de su administración, por la Fiscalía General para esclarecer su supuesta participación en la llamada masacre de Yumare en que nueve personas murieron en 1986.

Lusinchí vive fuera del país desde hace más de dos décadas y sus últimos domicilios conocidos fueron ubicados en la capital costarricense de San José y en Miami. No se presentó a la convocatoria que le hizo la fiscalía por la masacre, que sus abogados han calificado de ser una persecución política.

En el 2006 el Ministerio Público reabrió la investigación del caso Yumare luego que un tribunal del estado occidental de Yaracuy admitió la querrela interpuesta por familiares de las víctimas.

Algunos representantes del actual gobierno aseguran que los fallecidos eran dirigentes sociales de ideología bolivariana y sus asesinatos fueron planeados dentro de la directiva del gobierno de Lusinchí.

## Lider cubano, Fidel Castro: Uso EEUU de bases en Colombia gesto irrespetuoso

LA HABANA (AP) - El ex presidente Fidel Castro repudió el uso de bases militares colombianas por Estados Unidos y consideró que ningún país que “se respete a sí mismo” necesita de estos fuertes con extranjeros para defenderse de los flagelos que lo afecten.

“Mañana 28 de agosto se iniciará en Argentina la reunión Cumbre de Unasur (Unión de Naciones Suramericanas) cuya trascendencia no puede ignorarse. En ella se debe analizar la concesión de siete bases militares en territorio de Colombia a la superpotencia norteamericana”, manifestó el líder en una de sus “Reflexiones” difundida el jueves.

“La entrega de territorio para el establecimiento de siete bases militares de Estados Unidos en Colombia, amenaza directamente la soberanía y la integridad de los demás pueblos de Sur y Centroamérica”, agregó.

Castro recordó por ejemplo que “se sospechaba fuertemente que la base aérea norteamericana de Manta (Ecuador) había ofrecido información” para el ataque que militares colombianos hicieron en territorio ecuatoriano -- sin avisar a su gobierno-- y que terminaron con la vida del comandante guerrillero Raúl Reyes en marzo del 2008. El presidente Rafael Correa decidió solicitar la devolución del fuerte de Manta a Estados Unidos.





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